

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-0134/85

Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

DATE

1 April 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. Director, Public Affairs
Office
Room 7B24 - Headquarters

2.

3. Coordinator for Academic
Affairs
Room 7B24 - Headquarters

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

FBIS-0134/85
1 April 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Coordinator for Academic Affairs

THROUGH: Director, Public Affairs Office

FROM:
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

STAT

SUBJECT: Suggested Academic Curricula Leading to a Career in Intelligence

REFERENCE: Your Memo dtd 14 Mar 85, Same Subject

1. FBIS looks to conventional area studies programs for prospective analysts but seeks, where possible, the added dimension of experience doing research in primary media sources--that is, the open literature (newspapers and journals) of the countries under study. FBIS Analysis Group's methodology involves the close, intensive, systematic examination of these materials, which for some closed societies are the best sources of insight into political trends and developments. Analysts should not only be able to read Russian, Chinese, Arabic, or another relevant language but ideally should have developed an understanding of media evidence and of how public statements relate to policy. Ideal preparatory curricula would combine international political studies with solid grounding in a relevant foreign language and would include courses such as those at Johns Hopkins SAIS where students use foreign open literature as a primary research base.

2. We are also attracted to applicants who, in addition to strengths in the conventional disciplines, have well-developed expository writing skills. Ours is not the only analysis shop where new people have difficulty making the transition from academic-style writing to the simple, direct prose that is acceptable for policy-level readers. Training or experience in writing for policymakers would be a plus. While not part of a formal curriculum, some applicants seek to improve themselves in this regard by working as interns for the executive or legislative branches of government. We would encourage this kind of experience.

SUBJECT: Suggested Academic Curricula Leading to a Career in Intelligence

3. FBIS seeks officers for its Production Group who can combine well-developed foreign-language capability with a scientific or technical discipline. We would strongly encourage students wishing to use foreign-language skills professionally to develop corollary grounding in technical or scientific areas. Mastery of a foreign language in a substantive vacuum is not enough. The addition of a scientific/technical vocabulary materially enhances the applicant's marketability.

STAT

cc: DDS&T

DDS&T/FBIS, [redacted] (1Apr85)

STAT

Distribution:

- Original - Addressee
- 1 - C/AG
- 1 - D/FBIS Chrono
- 1 - JDC Corres File
- 1 - FBIS Registry